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14 May 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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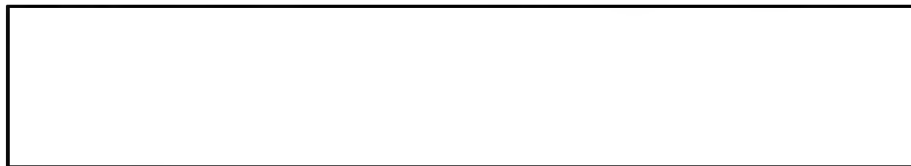
Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A008900420001-7

14 May 1966

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



CONTENTS

1. Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)



25X1

3. Bolivia: Growing tensions may lead to postponement of national elections. (Page 3)

4. Notes: 
 Ecuador; France-USSR.
(Page 4)

25X1

25X1



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

14 May 1966

*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: Except for simmering tensions near Hue between progovernment VNQDD elements in sympathy with an irate Catholic village and antigovernment forces, the political scene in the country remains quiet on the surface. Although there were indications earlier that Buddhist strategists might support retired General Tran Van Don as an interim government leader, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Buddhists agreed with his efforts to organize southerners into a political force but not with any plans he might have to engage in coup plotting,

Military Developments in South Vietnam: US Marines on 12 May turned the heavy engagement of a squad-size marine patrol into a successful reaction operation a few miles from Da Nang, killing approximately 175 Communists. At the same time Vietnamese units in the delta area below Saigon reportedly overran a major Viet Cong medical center and rice cache, killing some 90 of the enemy in the process. [REDACTED]

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Bolivia: Growing tensions may lead to a postponement of the 3 July national elections.

The Social Democratic Party (PSD), one of the four members of the Bolivian Revolutionary Front (FRB)--Barrientos' electoral alliance--reportedly has asked both junta president Ovando and Barrientos to expel the Authentic Revolutionary Party (PRA) from the alliance. PSD leaders threaten to withdraw from the front unless the PRA is ousted. Such a development would deprive Barrientos of his vice-presidential running mate, who is a member of the PSD.

The junta also faces increasing student hostility, as well as agitation in the tin mines. Most political parties are pressing strongly for postponement of the elections. The rightist Bolivian Socialist Falange (FSB) reportedly is even threatening to launch a guerilla campaign in the interior unless balloting is postponed.

25X1

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3

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25X1

Ecuador: The minister of defense has informed the high command that the fiscal situation necessitates a further reduction in the military budget, and that consequently conscription for the army and the marines must end. This will leave some units at half strength in the difficult months ahead. [redacted]

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[redacted] is very pessimistic that, because of the support ex-President Velasco Ibarra enjoys among enlisted ranks, the military will be able to forestall any attempt by Velasco to return to power. [redacted]

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France-USSR: [redacted] The USSR and France apparently moved closer to a space cooperation agreement during exploratory talks held in Moscow in late April. [redacted]

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[redacted] the Soviets renewed their offer to launch French satellites or joint French-Soviet satellites and have given the French encouragement that they would be allowed some participation in the launch operation. The question of French participation in the launching has been a problem in the negotiation. A space cooperation agreement reportedly will be signed before President de Gaulle's trip to the USSR this June. [redacted]

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Special Assistants to the President

The Scientific Adviser to the President

The Director of the Budget

The Department of State

The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council

The Director of Intelligence and Research

The Treasury Department

The Secretary of the Treasury

The Under Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of Defense

The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)

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Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy

Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Chief of Staff, United States Army

Commandant, United States Marine Corps

U.S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

Commander in Chief, Atlantic

The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

The Director, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

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